



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/711,714	09/30/2004	Stewart Gilman	2003-002	5713

32170 7590 02/08/2006

U.S. ARMY TACOM-ARDEC
ATTN: AMSTRA-AR-GCL
BLDG 3
PICATINNY ARSENAL, NJ 07806-5000

EXAMINER

HAYES, BRET C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3641

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/711,714	Applicant(s) GILMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Bret C. Hayes	Art Unit 3641	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 October 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

2. Note: US Patent No. 5,238,130 is directed to a closure. Examiner believes the intended patent is number 5,328,130, which has been cited on PTO-892.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claim 7 recites the limitation "the short cylindrical section" in lines 4 – 6 (2X). There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 3641

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 4, 7 – 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 463,922 to Russell.

8. Re – claim 1, Russell discloses the claimed invention including a finless projectile comprising a body **A** and **B**, for example, a nose, closer to **A**, for example, secured to a forward section of the body, a tail, around **b** et al., secured to a rearward section of the body, wherein the tail comprises a generally cylindrical tail piece and a slotted tail flange **b**, wherein the flange comprises a plurality of radially angled slots **b**¹ and **b**², for example, wherein the nose provides increased mass*.

*It is noted that the claims are directed to an apparatus per se, not a method of operation.

However, the claim contains limitations concerning the method/manner of the nose providing increased mass.

Note that it is well settled case law that such limitations, which are essentially method limitations or statements of intended or desired use, do not serve to patentably distinguish the claimed structure over that of the reference. See *In re Pearson*, 181 USPQ 641; *In re Yanush*, 177 USPQ 705; *In re Finsterwalder*, 168 USPQ 530; *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235; *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458; and, *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2nd 1647.

See MPEP 2114, which states:

A claim containing a “recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus” if the prior art apparatus teaches all the structural limitations of the claim. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2nd 1647.

Claims directed to apparatus must be distinguished from the prior art in terms of the structure rather than functions. *In re Danly*, 120 USPQ 528, 531.

Art Unit: 3641

and,

Apparatus claims cover what a device is, not what a device does. *Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Bausch & Lomb Inc.*, 15 USPQ2d 1525, 1528.

9. Lacking any evidentiary support, it is asserted that the nose of Russell also provides the claimed increased mass and as such anticipates the claim.

10. Re – claim 4, Russell further discloses approximately 2 to 8 radially angled slots. From the figures, there would appear to be exactly 4.

11. Re – claim 7, Russell further discloses the tail comprising a cylindrical section having a diameter similar to a diameter of a short cylindrical section of the body, and being connected to the short cylindrical section of the body. From a majority of the figures, for example, this would appear to be the case.

12. Re – claim 8, Russell further discloses the radially angled slots defining an angle of approximately 30 degrees with respect to an axis of the projectile. This is especially apparent from Fig. 10, for example.

13. Re – claim 9, Russell further discloses the body comprising an inwardly tapering section a', for example, and wherein the body comprises a short cylindrical section*. From the figures, such would appear to be the case.

14. Re – claim 10, Russell further discloses the nose having a generally ogival shape – as seen in the figures, for example.

15. Re – claim 12, Russell further discloses the nose having a generally ogival/cone combination shape – as seen in the figures, for example.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Russell as applied above.

18. Re – claims 2, 3, 5 and 6, Russell discloses the claimed invention except for the variations in dimensions. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Russell to be usable with any modern (or antiquated) piece of equipment as seen fit, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955). Further, in *Gardner v. TEC Systems, Inc.*, 725 F.2d 1338, 220 USPQ 777 (Fed. Cir. 1984), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 830, 225 USPQ 232 (1984), the Federal Circuit held that, where the only difference between the prior art and the claims was a recitation of relative dimensions of the claimed device and a device having the claimed relative dimensions would not perform differently than the prior art device, the claimed device was not patentably distinct from the prior art device.

19. Re – claim 11, Russell discloses the claimed invention as applied above except, arguably perhaps, for the nose having a generally cone shape. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Russell to include a nose having a generally cone shape, since there is no invention in merely changing the shape or form

Art Unit: 3641

of an article without changing its function except in a design patent. *Eskimo Pie Corp. v. Levous et al.*, 3 USPQ 23. In this case, the function does not change at all. The device, whether having a cone shaped nose or ogival or a combination of the two shapes, would inherently have the same function, namely, to be a projectile. Further, it is well known in the projectile art to implement a cone shape. Should such be requested, examiner will provide prior art documentation.

Conclusion

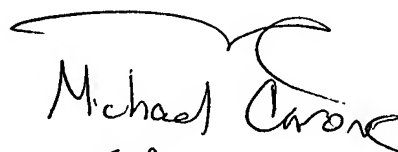
Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Bret Hayes at telephone number (571) 272 – 6902 or email address bret.hayes@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 5:30 am to 4:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time.

The Central FAX Number is **571-273-8300**.

If attempts to contact the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Carone, can be reached at (571) 272 – 6873.

bh

5-Feb-06


Michael Carone
SPE 3641